UNITED NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/53/70
S/1998/150
23 February 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Item 54 of the preliminary list*
CONSEQUENCES OF THE IRAQI OCCUPATION
OF AND AGGRESSION AGAINST KUWAIT

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 23 February 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith the text of the message sent to you today by His Excellency Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of Pakistan (see annex). It would be appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 54 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Khalid Aziz BABAR
Acting Permanent Representative

* A/53/50.

ANNEX

Message dated 23 February 1998 from the Prime Minister of Pakistan to the Secretary-General

I have just learned with great satisfaction that you have successfully reached an agreement with the Iraqi leadership on the weapons inspection issue, which, if approved by the Security Council, will, it is hoped, resolve the crisis in the Gulf. This would represent the success of diplomacy rather than the use of force.

I note that one of the key elements in the accord is ensuring respect for Security Council resolutions governing the inspection regime in Iraq. This illustrates what I had mentioned in my letter to you of 21 February that the implementation of all Security Council resolutions, whether they pertain to Iraq, Kashmir, Lebanon, Palestine or any other issue, is critical for the maintenance of global and regional peace and security.

The second main element of the agreement, which pertains to the preservation of the integrity of the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) charged with overseeing the disarmament of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, further highlights the need for the implementation of all Security Council resolutions in letter and spirit.

The Security Council decision to increase the oil-for-food programme for Iraq, authorizing the latter to sell US$ 5.2 billion worth of oil every six months, is also a welcome development. This will contribute to alleviating the sufferings of the people of Iraq.

Muhammad Nawaz SHARIF